

WEEKLY REPORT
Region 9
Environmental Protection Agency
Week Ending October 13, 2017
Water Division

Upcoming Hot Issues and Important Deadlines

Reducing Transboundary Wastewater Flows: On 10/17, we will convene federal, state, local, and elected officials to discuss progress in reducing transboundary sewage flows in the Tijuana and New River watersheds per action items from our April meeting. The Acting Regional Administrator will lead the meeting and will include representatives from CalEPA, Regional Water Boards 7 and 9, the International Boundary and Water Commission, NADBank, Customs and Border Protection, and the State Department, along with local, state, and federal elected officials. (Liden; 619-235-4763)

Public Notice of Draft UIC Permit for AZ Copper Mining Project: On 10/25, we will public notice the Draft Class III In-situ Permit for the Gunnison Project in Cochise County, Arizona. The notice includes a proposed aquifer exemption and permit that covers a 92-acre wellfield with approximately 1,400 Class III injection and recovery wells. This action would allow Excelsior Mining Arizona, Inc. to perform copper mining operations extending over 23 years in 3 stages. (Rumrill, 2-3293)

Upcoming Public Meetings

Supporting Tribal Wetland Program Capacity: On 10/24, we will co-host a wetlands program capacity building workshop with Regions 6 and 8 for tribes in the arid southwest. The workshop will cover topics such as how to manage a wetland program, wetland assessments, and wetland delineation, and encourage the formation of intertribal wetland workgroups to provide each other with technical assistance. (Rosetti, 2-3070)

Past Week Accomplishments

Drinking Water Regulatory Update for South Bay Stakeholders: On 10/11, we provided a drinking water regulatory update for a South San Francisco Bay Aqueduct group, including rule status for perchlorate, lead and copper, and unregulated contaminant monitoring rules. We also provided updates on EPA's work on potable reuse, risk reviews, infrastructure funding and small systems. (Macler, 2-3569)

Treatment as a State (TAS) Approvals for Tuolumne and Viejas Tribes: Applications for TAS were approved for the Tuolumne Band of Mewuk and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Tribes under Clean Water Act Section 319 (Nonpoint Source Pollution Control). Approval allows these tribes to apply for and conduct activities using CWA 319 funds. (Pinkerton, 2-3662; Maurin, 2-3943)

Water Division Staff Selected as California Academy of Sciences Fellow: On 10/10, Dr. Robert Leidy joined a prestigious group of scientists at the Annual Fellows Gathering for the California Academy of Sciences. Fellows are peer-nominated and selected by the Academy's Board for notable contributions to science. Rob was selected for his 34 years of ecology work in the EPA wetlands program, scientific expertise and dedication for conservation of waters in the American West, and research on the ecology and distribution of native freshwater fishes in the San Francisco Bay Area. (Brush, 2-3483)

Other Information

Division Director Schedule (October 16 - 20): Tomás Torres will be in San Diego Monday and Tuesday and in the rest of the week. Kristin Gullatt will be acting.

In the News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2017

U.S. EPA awards \$5.2 million to protect and restore San Francisco Bay

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded about \$5.2 million for water protection and restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay Area.

“A healthy San Francisco Bay is vital to the environmental and economic health of the region,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “EPA is succeeding in our mission to protect and restore habitats and water quality by supporting local partners and projects.”

San Francisco Bay is a designated “estuary of national significance” under the Clean Water Act. The bay and its tributary streams, situated in an urban area with more than seven million people, provide crucial fish and wildlife habitat at the heart of the larger Bay-Delta Estuary. The bay’s users and nearby residents are all affected by threats to its ecological health, including legacy pollutants like mercury and PCBs, polluted stormwater, and the challenges of drought and climate change.

Alexis Strauss, EPA's Acting Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest, announced the funding today at the 13th Biennial State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference in Oakland.

The following organizations [received EPA grants](#) for projects that benefit San Francisco Bay and its watersheds:

- Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will receive \$1.5 million for the restoration of Lower Walnut Creek. This project will restore up to 110 acres of tidal wetlands and an additional 100 acres of transitional habitat (areas that will become wetlands as sea levels rise).
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department will receive \$1.2 million for remediation work at India Basin Waterfront Parks. This project will restore an area of tidal marsh with shoreline access by removing about 3,500 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with PCBs, copper, lead, mercury, and nickel.
- Zone 7 Flood Control Agency will receive \$1.1 million for watershed restoration work on Alameda Creek. This project will include constructing more than 2,000 feet of stream bank setbacks and floodplain areas, improving flood protection and steelhead trout habitat.
- Ducks Unlimited will receive \$500,000 for the continuation of wetland restoration work at Eden Landing, near Hayward. This phase will include designing plans to restore 1,300 acres of tidal wetlands, improving flood protection and habitat for endangered species, such as the Ridgway’s rail and salt marsh harvest mouse.

EPA also awarded a combined \$878,245 to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to protect and restore water quality in and around the bay. This includes a [\\$600,000 National Estuary Program grant](#) for the implementation of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Estuary Blueprint. The Blueprint addresses issues such as rising sea levels, habitat loss, and urban pollutants through projects that include pollution prevention education for boaters and stormwater infrastructure development.

ABAG will also receive a [\\$278,245 wetland grant](#) to work in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Institute on the development of a Bay Area wetland regional monitoring plan. The plan will provide a consistent way to measure over time how tidal wetlands are responding to both restoration efforts and stressors (such as sea level rise).

For more information about EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/sf-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund>

For more information about EPA's National Estuary Program, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nep>

For more information about EPA's Wetland Program Development Grants, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants>